

Clinical Laboratory Update

December 2021

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From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

MHD laboratory hosting students for APHL/CDC summer fellowships

MHDL will be serving as one of the host labs for the APHL/CDC fellowships. We are encouraging opportunities for the local applicants interested in an exciting career in public health and laboratory science while working collaboratively with academic, industry and public health labs. Please help to spread the word out to your local Microbiology and other professional networks including university/alumni, research and public health systems partners about this unparalleled professional opportunity and to help strengthen the public health laboratory workforce. Programs accepting applications for summer 2022 include bioinformatics, bio-risk management, environmental health, food safety, infectious disease, informatics, quality management and newborn screening. To learn more about these opportunities, please visit:

<https://www.aphl.org/fellowships/Pages/About-the-Fellowship-Program.aspx>

SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Dashboard

Do you know that genomic sequencing data could be obtained from dashboard? COVID-19 case numbers are obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). All sequences are from samples collected from Wisconsin residents and submitted to the global database GISAID. Variant nomenclature is dynamic and can change as new strains are characterized.

<https://dataportal.slh.wisc.edu/>

BCD: Respiratory Report—Week Ending December 25, 2021

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02346-2021-12-25.pdf>

Links to related information & data:

[MHD COVID-19 Testing website](#)

[MHD COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections

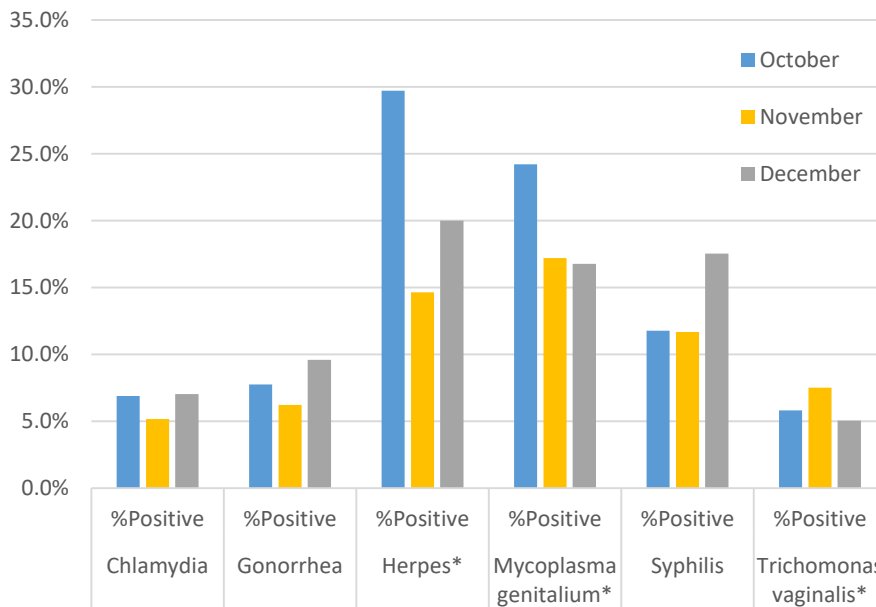


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

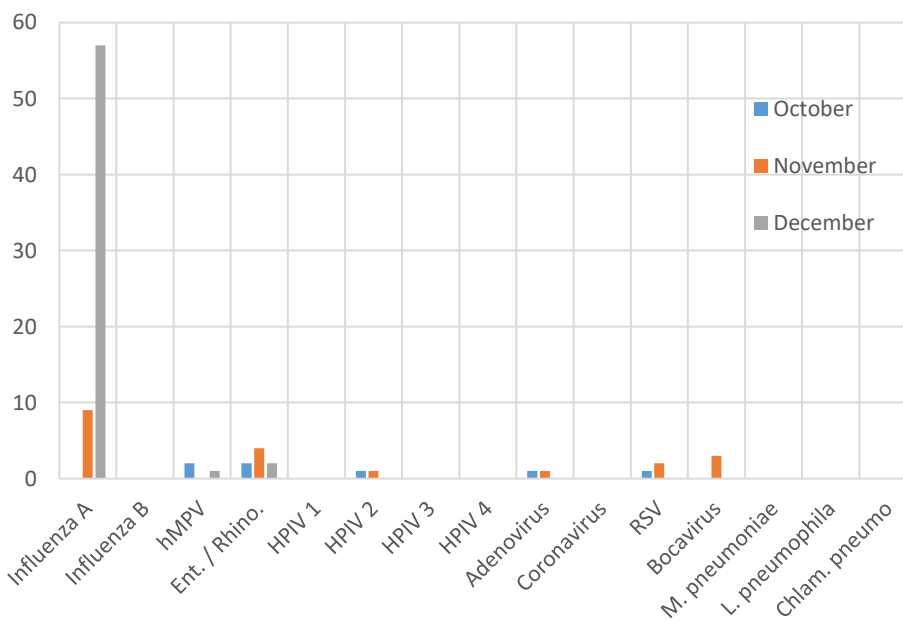


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



New HIV Infections

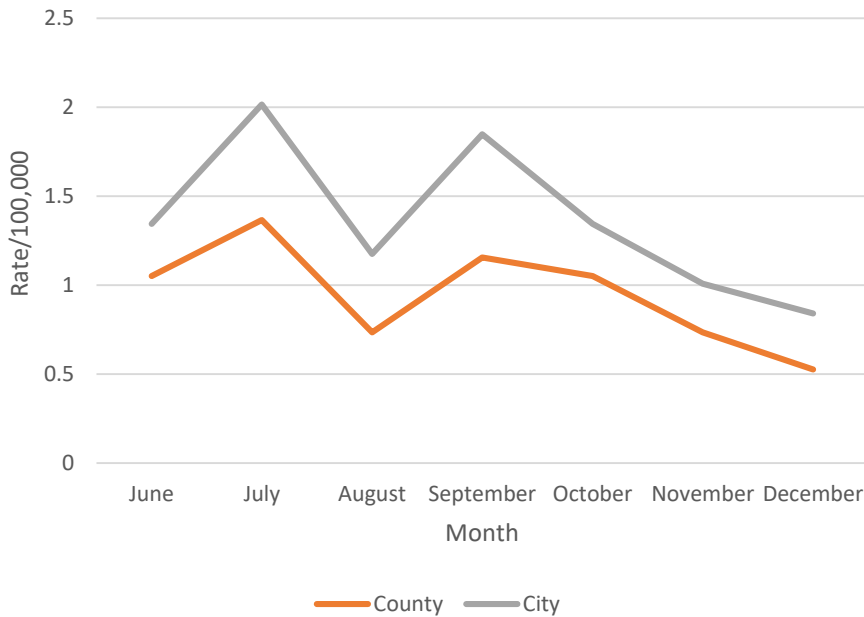


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

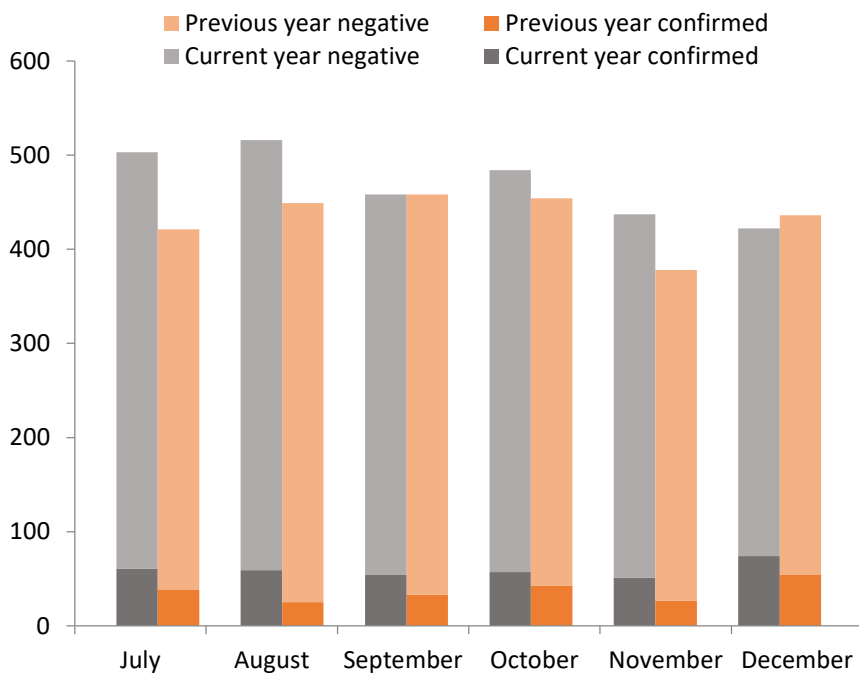


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

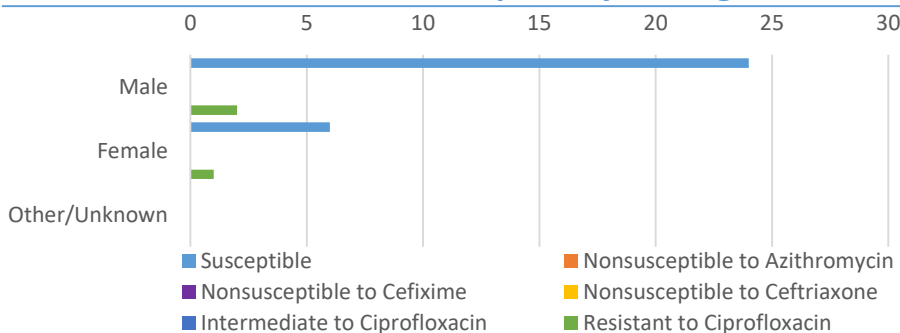


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In November 2021, 3 of 33 cultures tested were found to be resistant to Ciprofloxacin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Ciprofloxacin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

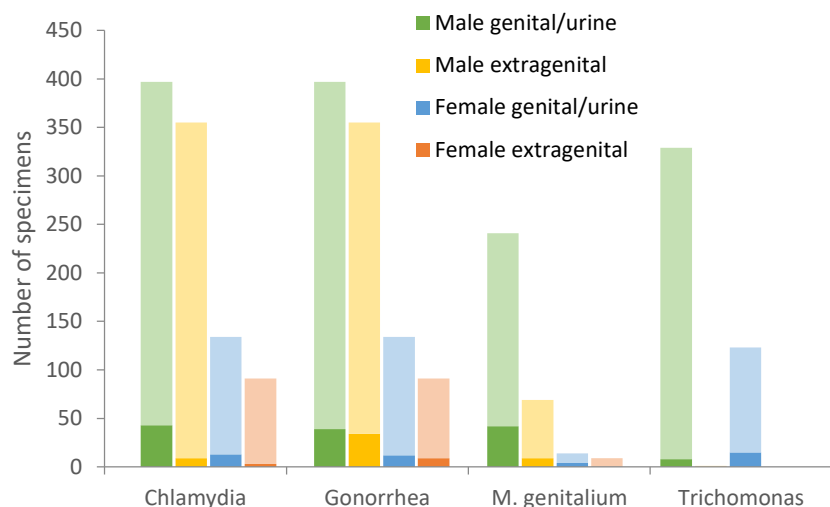


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In December 2021 6.9% of male and 7.1% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 9.7% of male and 9.3% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 16.5% of male and 17.4% of female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 2.4% of male specimens and 12.2% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

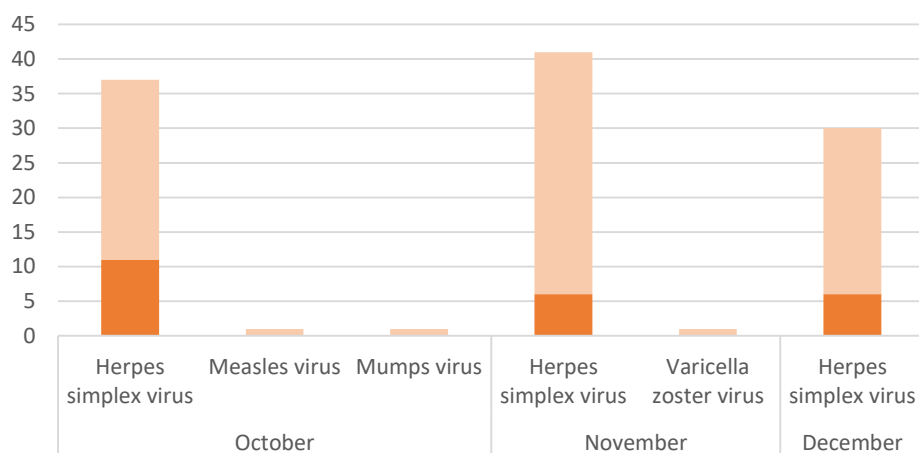


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

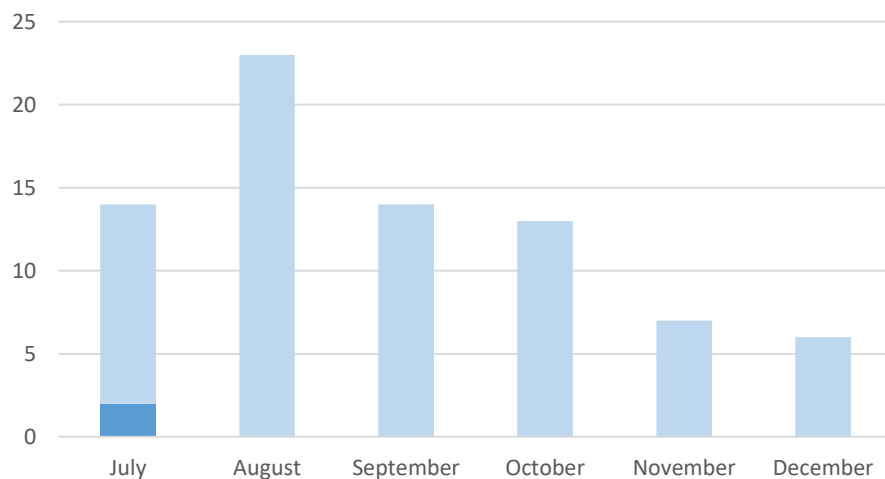


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.